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## THE TRADE COMMISSIONER SOUTH CHINA SILK EXPORTS

SERVICE EXPORTERS AND THEIR MARKETS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, April 8th. In its altered and improved form the Board of Trade Journal is devoting considerable space to explaining to home producers and others concerned the essential requirements of overseas trade. There is a wide field open to the Department in this direction, for it must be confessed that British manufacturers have been slow to adapt themselves to the special requirements of particular countries in which they desired to extend their business. However, the Trade Commissioner system is now being organised by the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), and there is an interesting article on this subject in the current number of the Journal, which explains how direct touch is kept between manufacturers and exporting houses at home and the Commissioners in the various parts of the Empire. This is secured by periodical visits to this country of Commissioners on service abroad, and it is also the intention that one of the Trade Commissioners shall always be attached to the headquarters of the Department in London. The Trade Commissioner is present at headquarters in Mr. G. Hamilton Wickham, a senior member of the Service, who, in addition to previous commercial experience, has had four years' experience in Australia and five years in Canada. Mr. W. G. Wickham, Trade Commissioner in South Africa, is on his way home, and already a large number of business houses and Chambers of Commerce have intimated a desire to consult with him upon their requirements.

It may seem strange, though it is true, that the Department can help an exporter of large experience more readily and surely than one who has everything to learn. The man of experience is confronted by specific difficulties and knows exactly what he wants. He is able to place his system of invoicing before the Department, or perhaps his agreement with agents, and to ask if there is any way in which they may be improved and made more applicable to the market conditions. Although the Trade Commissioner Service has not existed for more than ten years, it has acquired considerable experience upon just those points where difficulties originate. And difficulties in export trade naturally tend to repeat themselves in individual instances, and to become familiar to the Commissioner who is constantly in touch with them. Although many enquiries, especially by experienced firms, need to be transmitted to the man on the spot before the latest information can be obtained, very many can be dealt with by the Trade Commissioner at headquarters, and by those other Commissioners who from time to time come home in order to visit the chief business centres of this country.

WHAT A TRADE COMMISSIONER MUST KNOW. A Trade Commissioner stationed in any Dominion or Colony, and responsible for a particular area, has to make himself fully conversant with:—

- (1)—The business houses trading in his area, as well as the local manufacturers and public bodies.
- (2)—The quantity and value of the country's purchases of articles which the British manufacturer and merchant can supply.
- (3)—The tariff and customs regulations for goods entering the country.
- (4)—The foreign goods competing with British, their method of sale, their character and price.
- (5)—Freights and charges and the comparative rates between British ports and foreign ports serving his area.

HOW A MARKET IS STUDIED.

All these categories of information are essential to any British exporting house, and an important function of a Trade Commissioner is to obtain precise details with regard to them. For instance, take category (1). These concerns consist, as they do in Great Britain, of:—

- (a)—Importing Merchants—generally wholesalers, though in some instances they are retailers.
- (b)—Local manufacturers who are importing machinery, material, or equipment.
- (c)—Local agents who import, buying for their own account, some with an exclusive right to serve a particular market, as well as agents acting on commission.
- (d)—The big railway Corporations, Municipalities, and Public Works, which are importing all classes of goods.
- (e)—Mining Companies carrying on mining and other similar operations, who are also large buyers; and
- (f)—Shipping Companies, Telegraph Companies and Wireless Companies, who are also considerable importers from time to time.

The Trade Commissioner works in close touch with the Government of the territory to which he is attached, and, with the resources at his disposal, he is able to obtain considerable information about all classes of importers. When the question arises of particular firms acting as agents for British exporters it is necessary to know whom they already represent—whether British or foreign firms—and this is a subject to which particular attention is given by the Trade Commissioner. The correctness of his lists of importers is verified from time to time, and in this respect local firms have shown themselves ready to assist the Trade Commissioner who, in his turn, is frequently able to assist them. A correct and up-to-date Importers' List is invaluable; it prevents wasteful canvassing and proves beneficial both to the local agents and to the Trade Commissioner.

TARIFF AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

No part of a Commissioner's duties is more important than the close study of Tariffs and Customs regulations. More than once anomalies, adverse to British exporting interests, have been detected and successful efforts made to obtain rectification. A Trade Commissioner is working in a very friendly atmosphere in which both the people and their Government are anxious to assist trade with the Mother Country. But he cannot at the same time neglect the British exporter who will not take the trouble to observe the regulations. Sometimes British exporters are not aware of the regulations. Some interesting particulars concerning the South China silk exports are given in a recent report by the U.S. Consul-General at Hongkong.

The trade recorded the highest prices for raw silk reached in many years; yet, all things considered, the year was a very satisfactory one, and the closing months especially involved many firms, particularly American importers, in severe losses. The total yield of silk for the year is placed at the same quantity as last year—48,000 bales, as compared with 48,000 bales for the ten years previous. Exports of raw silk to all markets totaled only 30,075 bales, as compared with 48,703 bales in 1916, though exports of waste silk increased from 25,177 bales to 37,192 bales. There was a decrease in exports of pierced cocoons. Japan came into the South China market for waste silk to an unusual extent.

The demand from the United States has, of course, proved the critical factor in the year's trade. American buyers came into the market in January and February, chiefly for coarse sizes, while Europe took mostly fine and medium counts. The old crop was completely disposed of before the beginning of the new season. In July and August the United States developed a particularly strong demand, with the result that prices rose rapidly and assumed a boom level. American importers bought so heavily that these advanced prices that when rising silver exchange and untold prices later led to a stoppage of business and a fall in prices. The Americans were caught, and some of them experienced considerable losses.

The result was that in the closing months of 1917 American manufacturers were loaded with high-priced stocks, many of which were overstocked, orders were cancelled, and the trade assumed a very unsatisfactory condition that characterized the end of the year. A moderate demand from Europe is all that is prevented by a collapse in the South China market. Even this favourable factor has been modified somewhat by further restrictions on shipments of silk to France. The outlook for 1918 seems to rest almost entirely upon the course to be followed by American buyers, affected, of course, by the exchange value of silver.

## TRADE CONDITIONS AT FOCHOW.

According to a report from H.M. Consul at Fochow trade generally continued to be very bad during the December quarter. The autumn rice crop, in spite of the drought, proved to be a good one.

A merchant has furnished the following notes on the tea trade at Fochow during 1917:—

The restricted number of markets, and the disorganisation of the few remaining ones, owing to war conditions, caused a very late opening of the tea season, and there was practically no tea exported from Fochow until July. Russian buying dominated throughout, but great difficulty was experienced in getting the tea forward. The American market was the only free outlet, but even then shipments have been restricted owing to excessive consignments from Java. Business with France was greatly limited on account of lack of tonnage. Shipments to Australia and New Zealand were very small, due in the case of the former to the embargo which permitted only the execution of orders placed some time before the season opened, and in the case of the latter to the very heavy duty imposed on imports of China tea. At the close of the year there was still a considerable stock of tea for which there was no market. Most of it was fine tea from the first crop, and the Chinese would lose more heavily upon it than if the stock had been of more common grades from later crops. The existing financial conditions are such that the carrying of these teas for some time yet must be a very heavy burden. The very high exchange rates that have prevailed throughout the year do not appear to have affected business so much as did the difficulty of shipment.

A certain amount of tea has been bought in anticipation of shipments to London. Until the war is over Russia has to be looked to as the chief market for Fochow tea, and conditions there are being anxiously followed by those concerned.

British firms are impatient of what they call "red tape" and make needless difficulties for themselves. They should conform strictly to the Regulations—it is of no use to kick against the pricks—and should seek to obtain all the information available in regard to the proper way to make out invoices and papers. For instance, the Canadian duties are levied on the value of the factory from which sometimes 2 per cent. is permitted to be deducted, whereas the Australian duties are collected upon the f.o.b. value plus 10 per cent. added.

FOREIGN COMPETITIVE GOODS.

Foreign competition is very closely watched by a Trade Commissioner. Directly he observes that a certain class of foreign goods is established, or is becoming established, in the market, of a character which the United Kingdom could supply, he makes a most careful study of the situation. First, there is the question whether the article is being sold at a lower price, although of equal quality. Next, whether it is more attractive in style or pattern, or better boxed, or has some feature in manufacture which benefits the foreign-made article. Then he proceeds to examine the method of sale (whether it be more economical than ours, or more skilful). The questions of freight, of credit, and of other factors which cause the foreign goods to sell better than British goods are taken into account. When the Commissioner has analysed the situation in all its bearings he is in a position to advise British manufacturers and exporters where to look for a remedy.

In conclusion, too much emphasis cannot be placed on the fact that, although a Government Department, however well it may be organised, cannot sell British goods in Empire markets, it can, through its Trade Commissioners, whether abroad or at home, do much to assist British manufacturers and exporters in maintaining and developing their overseas trade.

## JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE IN 1917.

REPORT OF H.M. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, YOKOHAMA.

According to advance figures and a report issued by the Japanese Department of Agriculture and Commerce on Dec. 28th, the total foreign trade of Japan for 1917 (as known up to Dec. 20th) was valued at 2,530,377,000 yen, of which 1,540,036,000 yen represented exports and 990,341,000 yen imports—the excess of exports over imports being 549,405,000 yen. These figures constitute a record, and compared with the corresponding period (i.e., up to December 30th) of last year, when the prosperity of Japan's foreign trade was thought to have reached its zenith, the total result shows an increase of 723,649,000 yen, or 40 per cent. In exports the increase was 462,947,000 yen, or 43 per cent., and in imports 260,702,000 yen, or 33.7 per cent. The improvement was steady throughout practically the whole year.

The following statistics of Japanese trade since 1912 show at a glance the great advance that has been made:—

	Exports.	Imports.
Yen.*	Yen.*	
1912	529,982,000	618,992,000
1913	642,460,000	739,432,000
1914	561,101,000	595,736,000
1915	768,307,000	532,450,000
1916	1,127,483,000	766,423,000
1917 (up to Dec. 20th)	1,540,036,000	990,341,000

\* Up to 1914 the exchange value of the yen was 2s. 0d.; it is now about 2s. 1½d.

## EXPORT TRADE.

In exports the increase has been almost general, and with the exception of cotton hosiery, woolen cloth, and hats and caps, which declined by 12,090,000 yen, 1,600,000 yen, and 9,000,000 yen respectively, and surplus leather goods and camphor, in which there was a smaller decrease, all the main articles of importance in Japan's export list showed an increase. In the case of cotton hosiery, political disorder in Russia, and more especially the ban on imports into the United Kingdom, which was one of the largest buyers in 1916, largely accounted for the decrease. As regards woolen cloth, the disorder in Russia was again responsible for the decline, while in hats and caps the decrease is attributed to diminished purchases by the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom. To compensate for the loss of trade in these countries, however, there was a marked increase in exports to China and the Netherlands East Indies.

## PRINCIPAL INCREASES IN EXPORTS.

Of the other principal goods exported—raw silk, cotton cloth and yarn, copper, refined sugar, habutae, coal, waste silk, tea, matches, timber, rice, etc.—all recorded particularly large gains, the increase in raw silk alone amounting to 85,860,000 yen. Although this was partly due to an advance in prices, the chief factor was the increase in purchases by the United States, where the demand for silk goods has grown. The increases in the export of cotton cloth, some 66,930,000 yen, is one of the outstanding features of the export trade, showing as it does that Japan has, for the time being at least, captured the markets in the East which can no longer obtain their wanted supplies from Europe. Exports of cotton yarn also increased, but in value only, as there was a diminution in volume. The increased export of copper was due to the larger supplies that went to the United Kingdom and France, exports to Russia, which was the largest buyer in 1916, being quite small.

Habutae exports improved, owing to increased purchases by the United States, while exports of refined sugar increased to the extent of 9,570,000 yen, exports being mainly to China, Siberia, and the Far East generally. In coal and waste silk the advance in prices accounts for the increases, as the volume was less than in 1916. Rice went in larger quantities to the United States and to the United Kingdom, as supplies for the Expeditionary Forces.

There was also a substantial increase in the export of many articles considered of secondary importance, such as flour, beans, beer, leaf, tobacco, leather, coconut oil, soap, pencils, printing paper, window glass, brass plates and electric machinery and wire, and shooks for tea-boxes. India, the Straits Settlements and the Netherlands East Indies shared the increase in beer, flour went largely to China and the Far East generally; tobacco to Egypt; beans to the United States; shooks to India; coconut oil to Russia and the United States; window glass, soap, printing paper, etc., to the Far East generally, as well as to India and Australia; and pencils largely to the United Kingdom.

## IMPORT TRADE.

In imports the increase was not so great as in the case of exports, but in eleven out of the twenty-two chief items on the list there was a substantial increase, viz., in rice, beans, crude rubber, raw cotton, hemp and flax, saltpetre, oilcake, pig-iron, iron ingots, shanks, plates, pipes and tubes, and machinery.

## PRINCIPAL INCREASES IN IMPORTS.

Notwithstanding the ban on the export of steel from the United States, the import of steel as well as machinery into Japan in 1917 created a record. In steel plates and shanks the increase amounted to 90,760,000 yen, which may afford some idea of the industrial activity of the country during the year; the requirements of these goods being mostly for shipbuilding and for the manufacture of various kinds of machinery. The imports came chiefly from the United States.

As regards imports of raw cotton, the increase of 48,540,000 yen, almost wholly from the United States and India, was due to the rapidly increasing demand for Japanese cotton goods in India, China, the East generally, and in other countries. The increase in imports of wool amounted to 16,480,000 yen, but this was due mainly to the increase in price, as the quantity was only slightly larger than in 1916. Owing to the restrictions

(Continued at foot of next column.)

## COTTON PIECE-GOODS TRADE IN HONGKONG.

THE NO CREDIT SYSTEM.

During the earlier part of 1917, reports the U.S. Consul General, Mr. George E. Anderson, there was some trouble with Chinese buyers over new terms of clearance of goods established by the importers through the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, but when buyers found that the terms and conditions were meant to be permanent, they were finally accepted. The result has been that while the volume of business in cotton-goods imports has been only a fraction of the normal imports, because of general war and financial conditions, the year's trading has been reasonably profitable, and the piece-goods business as a whole is in a good condition to handle a large volume of trade as soon as normal conditions have been re-established.

As a matter of fact, the piece-goods trade of the Hongkong field, and more or less in China generally during the past year, has been saved only by the high exchange value of silver. Prices of all goods in Great Britain and the United States have advanced to such a degree that at ordinary rates of exchange the price of goods in silver would have been entirely out of the reach of Chinese consumers, and with the facility the Chinese people always show in dealing with a situation of this sort, they would have done without foreign fabrics entirely, and would have taken up more generally with native cloths woven from native yarns made from native as well as imported cotton yarns. This use of native cloth has been increased very materially during the present period of high prices.

The exchange value of silver ruled high during the whole of the year, however, and as cotton went up in price, the unusually high value of silver reached in August and September carried Chinese buying power along with it, for the increased price of cotton goods was more than counterbalanced by the increased buying power of silver. Nevertheless, the volume of trade at all times during the year has been small. Political disturbances in South China, particularly in August and September, prevented any expansion in trade, and then in a general way the buying power of the Chinese people has been very low, because of their inability to export their usual products in the usual way. Trade in the coast ports, like Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow, for these reasons has been small. During the year the general effect of the war on the trade also became more and more apparent.

## MATCH TRADE IN MALAYA.

At one time Sweden was the principal supplier of matches to the Far East. In recent years, however, Japan has practically captured the trade, as is shown by the following statistics from the Straits Settlements.

The value of the imports and exports of matches into the Straits Settlements over a period of four years was as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
1913	£112,915	£63,815
1914	102,244	61,003
1915	190,435	120,177
1916	100,876	120,188

The imports came chiefly from the following places:—

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Japan	90,254	86,962	134,339	162,056
Sweden	10,142	8,465	20,679	15,741
Hongkong	1,003	5,124	19,058	19,108
Denmark	—	—	7,207	—
United Kingdom	—	—	—	108

It is probable that the matches imported from Hongkong were largely of Japanese manufacture, being merely transhipped at the northern port.

imposed on Australian wool, Japan had to obtain the bulk of her supplies from South Africa. Considerable purchases were also made in South America.

Imports of oilcake increased by 18,040,000 yen, owing to its use as a substitute for sulphate of ammonia as a fertiliser, the price of the latter having advanced considerably since the beginning of the year. The increase in imports of machinery amounted to 14,380,000 yen, most of the imports being from the United States and the United Kingdom, with a lesser amount from Sweden. Larger shipments of hemp from Manila to provide for the growing hemp spinning and weaving industry accounted for the rise in imports of that commodity. In iron—pig and ingot—the increase of 8,200,000 yen was due to enhanced prices, and did not denote an increase in quantity.

Imports of less importance which recorded a substantial increase were as follows:—Malt (due to the increased beer export), tallow for soap and glycerine making; morphine; precious stones (chiefly diamonds); rails motor-cars (up to October 623 cars had been imported, almost all from the United States, as compared with 174 for the corresponding period of 1916); copra for the manufacture of coconut oil (already mentioned in connection with exports); sulphate of ammonia from the United Kingdom (owing to the increased domestic output an export business has been commenced in this article, and supplies from the United Kingdom will probably diminish hereafter); and caustic soda and soda ash mainly from the United States.

## NOT ABNORMAL INCREASES IN IMPORTS.

Chief amongst the articles in which a decrease was recorded were sugar, skins and hides, pulp for paper-making, lead, brass and yellow metal, cotton cloth, paper, petroleum, and iron nails. In the case of pulp the development of the domestic industry accounts for the diminution, while decreased orders for army boots from Russia was the chief reason for a falling-off in imports of hides and skins to the extent of 2,830,000 yen. The decrease of 1,774,000 yen in the import of iron nails is said to be due to the increased output of Japanese nail makers, and partly also to the fact that in 1916 a shortage of wire rods prevented Japanese factories from working at full capacity, which led to a large import of nails in that year.



HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.  
MURDER CHARGE.

Two Chinese were charged with the murder of a hawker in I Yik Street, on the morning of May 31st.

The body of the murdered man was found lying by the side of the road, with five stab wounds. The Police theory is that the murder was the result of a clan fight.

Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe remanded the case for a week.

## THE UNCLAIMED BROOCH.

A Chinese was charged, on remand, with being in unlawful possession of a gold brooch.

It will be remembered that, at the last hearing, Sergeant Ingham pressed the Magistrate for a conviction on the ground that defendant had picked up the brooch on the racetrack and had pawned it without informing the Police. The Magistrate, however, replied that the man could not be convicted, as he had found the brooch and no claimant had appeared for it in response to advertisement.

Sergeant Ingham repeated, yesterday, that the brooch was still without an owner.

Mr. J. R. Wood discharged defendant, stating that he was at liberty to redeem the brooch from the pawn-broker and become its possessor.

## CHEAP AT THE PRICE.

A Japanese was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the Praya East and assaulting an Indian constable.

Inspector Sim stated that just before 9 o'clock on Tuesday night, the Indian constable saw defendant creating a disturbance. He arrested the man, who became very violent and assaulted him. Police whistles were blown and Inspector Sim and Sergeant Cotton went to the constable's assistance and carried the drunken man into No. 2 Police Station. Whilst defendant was being searched he again grew very boisterous, and it took three men to hold him down in the charge room.

Defendant denied that he was drunk, and disorderly, and said the constable faked up the charge against him through spite.

Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe fined defendant \$2 on the first charge and \$8 on the second, with the alternative of ten days' hard labour. Defendant was also ordered to pay \$2 compensation to the constable.

BOAT-WOMEN ATTACKED BY  
RUBBERS.

## TWO GIRLS DROWNED.

A report has been made to the Police by a married woman, the owner of a licensed fishing boat, that early yesterday morning, while her boat was lying alongside Yaumati Ferry Wharf, two men came on board and, engaging her boat, ordered her to row in the direction of Mong Kok. On passing Waterloo Street wharf two other men joined the party, and the direction of the boat was changed to Tai Kok Tsui. After they had proceeded some distance the men attacked complainant and her two daughters with the intention, it is alleged, of stealing their jewellery, etc. In the struggle which ensued the boat capsized, throwing the occupants into the water, and the complainant's two daughters were drowned.

Three of the men have been arrested by the Police and will be charged at the Magistracy in the course of the next few days.

## TRAPPING "U-BOATS."

A Dutch correspondent has received from a German sailor interned in Holland a lively account of his first and last adventure in a German submarine.

After being interned in England for a short time, he made good his escape with a fellow-prisoner in a small boat, and was picked up by a German submarine near the English coast. Soon afterwards the submarine sighted some fishing vessels, but their curious movements caused the Germans to suspect a submarine trap, and they dived. They proceeded slowly submerged, but presently the screw began to beat irregularly, and the commander could not make out what had happened.

After about two hours the water seemed curiously still, and as it felt as if they were making headway the commander decided to come to the surface. When they emerged, they were alongside a quay full of laughing faces of British naval officers and blue-jackets. They were safely in a British port—just towed in like a blooming fish," said the German.

## PEKING NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, May 26th.

## SINO-JAPANESE AGREEMENT.

The opposition to the Sino-Japanese Agreement grows in volume. Chambers of Commerce, the Press, students, and leading politicians continue their protests, but the Government remains obdurate and declines to be drawn into publishing details of a purely military Convention. If the reported German control of the Trans-Siberian railway as far as Irkutsk be accurate, the necessity for Sino-Japanese intervention in Siberia seems to become imminent, for undoubtedly a danger would be constituted by German control of this important continent railway link. The *Chi Sheng Pao*, a vernacular newspaper, has been closed down by order of the police for publishing exaggerated reports concerning the Agreement that, in the opinion of the authorities, were calculated to create unrest among the public and thereby disturb the peace and order of the capital.

## HARD TIMES.

The Government is experiencing much difficulty in making ends meet, and is making an effort to stimulate the public to greater buying interest in the Seventh Year Domestic Loan, but with little success. Instructions have been given that officials are to be paid a proportion of their salaries in bonds—an extremely foolish policy, for the result is to depreciate the value of the loan. The needy officials dispose of their holdings at considerable reductions for ready cash and, consequently, in a month or so the bonds will be available at about 60 per cent. of their nominal value.

The ex-Imperial Family is also feeling the pinch. A collection of gold utensils that were kept in the Imperial Depository of the Manchu Emperors is to be put up for sale by the Tsing House in order to tide over its financial embarrassment.

## A CURIOUS EPIDEMIC.

North China is suffering from the visitation of an epidemic resembling influenza. It has all the symptoms of "la grippe," but only lasts three or four days. Over 20,000 were affected by it in Tientsin last week, and Peking can count the victims by the thousand also. Native banks, the big silk stores outside Chienmen, and all kinds of businesses are handicapped by an extraordinarily large proportion of sick staffs. Some have had to close. In several sections of the city numbers of the police are unfit for duty. Fortunately, the epidemic is not fatal.

## JAPANESE M.P.s.

A party of Japanese M.P.s are visiting the capital and having a good time, sightseeing and being entertained. The other day they had an audience with the Premier, when the customary nice things were said by both parties.

## REVELATION OF THE QUEEN.

The Chinese authorities profess to be somewhat perturbed over the revival of queue growing, and the police in Peking have been instructed to see that all such hirsute appendages are removed. It is generally understood that the queue is a badge of imperialism, an expression of loyalty to the Manchu Dynasty, and for that reason it is taboo. Other considerations, however, enter into the matter of queue cutting, and these are not altogether disinterested. As a matter of fact, "queue" enters into this movement, as it does in almost every one in China.

To explain "human hair" is very valuable, Chinese hair more so, because, being so thick, it can be split and applied to the various uses which have created the demand for human hair. Now a queue is worth roughly five or six dollars Mexican—perhaps, more—and if an official with commercial instincts can collect several hundred he is doing a good stroke of business for himself. Of course, others may have to share in the profits, but still the balance to be credited to his banking account is substantial. It is not suggested that any particular official plans this scheme, but it is well known that Chinese have been persuaded to remove their "tails" on grounds of hygiene and cleanliness by men who were actuated solely by the profit to be derived from the sale of the hair. Even foreigners have not been above engaging in this trade, and shiploads of coolies and workmen bound for Europe have been induced to part with their locks and hand them over to others who knew how to realise on the hair. Sometimes they were encouraged by a small monetary offer, but in many instances did the simple Chinese receive the market value of their treasured queue. It is only fair to say that the bulk of the police who carry out the queue-cutting instructions have no other motive than obedience to orders, but on the other hand, it is just as reasonable to conclude that someone is making something out of it. In other words, queue-cutting does not always represent anti-Manchism. Sometimes it represents commercialism.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES  
FOR CHINA.

The Civil Service Estimates for the year ending March 31st, 1919, have been issued, and we give below details concerning the votes relating specially to China. The figures enclosed in parentheses are last year's votes, and are given for purposes of comparison. Where no comparisons in the case of salaries, allowances, etc., are made, figures are the same as last year.

## DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR BUILDINGS.

Under the heading of "New Works, Alterations, Additions, and Purchases (including Furniture in connection therewith)," are the following votes:—Peking: Provisions of water supply, heating system, electric generating plant, and ice-making plant, £900 (£800); Canton: Rebuilding Constables' quarters and gaol, £500 (£1,100). The maintenance of buildings in the Far East is included in a general vote.

## THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, £5,000; Counsellor, £900; Chinese Secretary, £1,000; Commercial Attaché, £1,000 and £107 for rent; Chaplain, £200; Physician, £850 and £50 local allowance.

## THE CONSULAR SERVICE.

The total estimates for the Services in China (partly repayable from Indian revenues) are £55,338 (£76,285). The votes are as follows:—Salaries, allowances, and wages, £29,208 (£24,807); outfit and travelling, £5,900 (£5,800); rent allowances, £2,200; postage, £350; incidental expenses, £4,450 (£3,570); prison expenses, witnesses, deportations, etc., £700; medical attendance, £2,320 (£1,835); relief of distressed British subjects, £250.

The votes under the heading Shanghai "Court and Consulate-General" are as follows:—Judge, £1,900; Consul-General and Registrar of Shipping, £1,200 and £800 (local allowance not pensionable); Assistant Judge, £1,200 (including allowance of £100 as Judge of the High Court at Wei-hai-wei); Consul, £900; Crown Advocate, £600; Registrar, £650 (£635); Chief Clerk (Court), £443 (£438), including £100 allowance as Official Receiver in Bankruptcy (to be reconsidered this year); Assistant Clerk (Court), £223 (£200); Marshal (Court), £250 (£240); Usher (Court), £177. Total, £7,948 (£7,800). Then come the votes for the Consuls as follows:—Amoy, £600; Canton (Consul-Gen.), £1,000 and £200 local allowance; ditto (Vice-Consul), £600 (local allowance); ditto (Vice-Consul), £600 (local allowance of £100); Changsha, £500; Chefoo, £800; Chengtu (Consul-Gen.), £900 and £100 local allowance; Chungking (Vice-Consul), £600 and £100 local allowance; Foochow, £800 and £100 local allowance; Hangchow, £900; Hankow (Consul-Gen.), £1,000 and £200 local allowance; ditto (Vice-Consul), £600, with a local allowance of £100; Harbin, £900, with a local allowance of £200 (to be reconsidered); Ichang, £800; Kiukiang, £800; Kiangchow and Pakhoi, £800; Mukden (Consul-General), £900, with a local allowance of £100; Nanking, £800; Newchwang, £800; Ningpo (Vice-Consul), £600, with £420 from Post Office vote); Swatow, £500 (with £900 from Post Office vote); Tientsin, £900; Tientsin (Consul-General), £1,000, with local allowance (not pensionable), of £200; ditto (Vice-Consul), £600, with local allowance of £100 (not pensionable); Tsinan (Chinanfu), £800; Tsingtao (Consular Agent), £400 office allowance; Wuchow, £800; Wuhu, £800; Yunnan-fu, £900, with local allowance of £100 (not pensionable). Total, £14,400. There are also votes for Assistants and Students as follows:—Twelve first-class at £400 a year each, £4,800; fifteen second-class at £350 a year each, £5,250; interpreters' allowances to Assistants, eight at £100 and nine £50 a year each, £1,250; allowance to assistant employed in Chinese secretary's office, £200; allowance to assistant as accountant at Peking, £200; allowance to senior assistant in Chancery at Peking, £100; ditto to assistants in Mixed Office, Shanghai, £150 and £100; ditto to assistant in Land Office, Shanghai, £150; ditto to assistant in Shipping Office, Shanghai, £50; ditto to assistant in charge at Ningpo, £150; twenty-two student interpreters at £250 a year each, £5,500; prizes for ditto, £75; and to provide allowances to make up students' salaries to £300 a year each, whilst serving as assistants, £250. Total, £18,975. There are the usual votes for teachers, writers, linguists, £7,934 (£5,576); constables, boatmen, porters,

(Continued at foot of next column.)

## CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CANTON, June 5th.

## THE NORTHERN M.P.s.

It is said that the M.P.s. in the northern provinces, who intended to come to the South, have changed their minds since hearing that most of the M.P.s. in Canton have been denounced.

## DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

We are informed that Dr. Sun Yat-sen, who was interviewed in Swatow, has announced that he has decided not to accept the appointment as one of the Controllers to the Confederation Government. Sun also added that he will stay in Swatow for a further period and that he is uncertain as to his subsequent movements.

## THE GUNBOAT "KWONG-HOI."

The authorities have announced that the gunboat *Kwong-Hoi* is to be sold by public auction in the Tachun's Yamen on the 6th inst. The starting price is £1,150,000. The purchaser must be Chinese.

## THE TACHUN'S PREPARATIONS.

The Tachun, it is said, has sent officers to Kwangsi to recruit more soldiers for his own protection. Two regiments have been recruited and despatched to Canton to be trained. The Tachun, who was warned by General Luk that Kwangsi leaders will be driven from Kwangtung, has ordered great defensive preparations on the "Koon-Yam Hill" (a well fortified hill in Canton).

## ANOTHER BOMBARDMENT.

It is rumoured that the Tachun's Yamen was again bombarded by the gunboats of the 1st Squadron this morning. The bombardment, it is said, was due to certain misunderstandings. The rumour, however, needs confirmation.

SEPARATION OF IMPERIAL AND  
DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

At the recent meeting of the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute, Sir Godfrey Lagden, K.C.M.G., in the chair, the following resolution was moved by Earl Brassey, seconded by Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., and carried unanimously:—"That the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute is of opinion that the separation of the control of Imperial matters from that of the domestic affairs of the Mother Country is urgently necessary, and that the settlement of the future constitution of the United Kingdom is an essential preliminary to the discussion of the future government of the Empire at the special Imperial Conference, to be summoned at the conclusion of the war."

coolies, and others employed on public services at the different Consulates, £10,461. The total amount for salaries, allowances, and wages is £29,208 (£24,807), deducting £200 on account of savings by vacancies, etc. The vote for outfit and travelling, comprising allowances for passages of Consular officers, student interpreters, and others, is £5,900 (£5,800); rent allowances, £2,200; and postage, £350. In this section there is also under the heading of "Incidental Expenses," a vote of £2,514 (£2,060) for allowances assigned to the Court and different Consulates for office contingencies, including extra boat hire, boatmen, coolie hire, etc., and £533 (£257) as allowances for purchase of coal. There is, in addition, a vote of £3,000 (£1,500) for incidental expenses of mission and of Court and Consulates not included in fixed office allowances, making a total of incidental expenses of £4,047 (£3,877). From this £297 (£207) is deducted for printing, stationery, postage, and prison expenses, paid from fixed allowances, but chargeable under sections, leaving £4,450 (£3,570). The remaining votes are:—Prison expenses, witnesses, deportations, etc., £700; medical attendance, £2,320 (£1,835).

*Vladivostok*.—The vote is for Consul, £700 (£675), with £250 (£275) local allowance, and £350 office expenses (to be reconsidered in 1919).

## APPROPRIATIONS IN AID.

Under the above head is the following item:—Fees, fines, etc., connected with the Services in China, £20,000.

## GRANTS IN AID OF LOCAL REVENUE.

Under the above head there is a vote of £200 contribution to the funds of the University of Hongkong for the purpose of providing "King Edward VII. Scholarships," tenable at the University by British subjects. Wei-hai-wei, a vote of £4,000.

## TELEGRAPH SUBSIDIES.

Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company:—A subsidy of £4,000 a year in respect of the working of the cable by the H.M. Government of a cable between Chefoo and Wei-hai-wei, commencing from September 5th, 1900. It is payable as long as the company may so work the cable and maintain the connection between it and the Taku-Chefoo-Shanghai cable, and has been reduced to £2,800 a year from June 4th, 1910, in consideration of shorter hours of working, £2,800 (£4,000).

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CRAWFORD & Co.

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OILED SILK  
RAINCOATS

FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

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Missions Building,  
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Enquiries Invited.

1205



## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

## POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING.

THE MEETING OF MOTORISTS called for Friday next is POSTPONED until FRIDAY, 14th June.  
Hongkong, 5th June, 1918. [2105]

## FOR SALE.

PEARL THREAD NECKLACE.  
Apply, from 12 to 3 P.M. and 5 to 9 P.M.  
Room 66, KING EDWARD HOTEL [2107]

## TO LET.

NO. 4, MORRISON HILL, from 1st July.  
Apply to—  
THE TREASURY [2108]

## TO LET.

HOUSE at OBSERVATORY VILLAS, Kowloon.  
Apply to—  
ARNDTSON V. APCAR & CO.,  
Des Voeux Road Central. [2109]

## CANTON-KOWLOON RAILWAY.

## SUMMER SERVICE.

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that on and from MONDAY, June 10th, SEVERAL IMPORTANT ALTERATIONS will be made in the Time-table. Time-tables will be available on Friday, the 7th instant, and may be had on application at all stations and at the Head Offices, Kowloon and Canton.

By Order,  
H. P. WINSLOW,  
Manager,  
Kowloon-Canton Railway,  
British Section.

By Order,  
WEN TEH CHANG,  
Managing Director,  
Canton-Kowloon Railway,  
Chinese Section.  
Kowloon, 6th June, 1918. [2110]

## NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM CALCUTTA, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

## THE Steamship

## "SANTHIA"

Having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are notified that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., wharves and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by 12th June will be subject to rent.  
All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined by Messrs. Goddard and Douglas on 10th June, at 10 A.M.

Claims against the Steamship must be presented in writing within 10 days after arrival of Steamship, otherwise they will not be recognized. No Fire Insurance will be effected by the undersigned in any case whatever.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd., Agents.

Hongkong, 5th June, 1918. [2124]

## PROPOSED SAILING HONGKONG TO SAN FRANCISCO.

## THE Steamship

## "MANDASAN MARU"

Leading on or about 14th June.

For other particulars, please apply to—

THE SHIPPING DEPARTMENT,  
THE MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA, LTD.,  
Agents. [21057]

## WAR CHARITIES.

A MEETING of the European Members of the General Committee of the War Charities will be held in the Board Room of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. on FRIDAY, 7th June, at 5.15 P.M.

## BUSINESS:

To consider a suggestion for the stimulation of regular subscriptions to the Fund by inviting the co-operation of the British Clubs in the Colony.  
Hongkong, 4th June, 1918. [21084]

## WANTED.

AN ELECTRICAL or MARINE ENGINEER is required as a Shift Engineer at the Generating Station of the HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LTD., Wanchai.

Apply in writing accompanied by details of experience and copies of testimonials to—  
THE MANAGER,  
HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LTD.,  
St. George's Building. [21085]

## WAI KEE.

## FLAG &amp; SAILMAKER.

No. 153, Des Voeux Road Central,  
Top Floor,  
HONGKONG.  
Telephone No. 1833. [21087]

## INTIMATIONS

## NOTICE.

THE Business hitherto carried on by us in Hongkong and elsewhere under the name of B. MONTEITH WEBB & CO., has been acquired by Messrs. ARNHOLD BROTHERS & Co., Ltd., and will henceforth be carried on in their name.  
Dated the 1st June, 1918.  
B. MONTEITH WEBB & Co. [2093]

## NOTICE.

THE Business of Messrs. B. MONTEITH WEBB & Co. in Hongkong and elsewhere has been acquired by us and will henceforth be carried on under our name.  
Mr. B. MONTEITH WEBB has been appointed Managing Director of our Business in Hongkong and will sign for our Company.  
Dated the 1st June, 1918.  
ARNHOLD BROTHERS & Co., Ltd. [2094]

## NOTICE.

MR. A. A. NOWSARIWALLA takes over charge of our Firm's business here from this date upon Mr. E. A. SOOLEMAN leaving the Colony shortly.  
ABDOLALLY EBRAHIM & CO.,  
70, Wyndham Street.  
Hongkong, 1st June, 1918. [2095]

## G. B. PUBLIC AUCTION.

PARTICULARS and CONDITIONS of the letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on MONDAY, the 10th day of June, 1918, at 3 P.M., at the Office of the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, by Order of His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, of One Lot of CROWN LAND at Kowloon, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 years with the option of renewal at a CROWN LEASE to be fixed by the Surveyor of His MAJESTY THE KING, for one further term of 75 years.

## PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

Lot No.	Area (Acres)	Area (Sqr. Feet)	Area (Sqr. Yds.)	Area (Sqr. Meters)	Area (Sqr. Fathoms)	Area (Sqr. Rods)	Area (Sqr. Links)	Area (Sqr. Chains)	Area (Sqr. Furlongs)	Area (Sqr. Miles)
1	40' 0"	40' 0"	115'	115'	4,770	05	15,110			

## G. B. NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.

Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.  
All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION or PERSONS ORDINANCE 1918.

Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.  
The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50. [21058]

## THE DAIRY FARM COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Business of the manufacture and sale of Ice and the business of Cold Storage hitherto carried on by the HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED, has been acquired and will in future be carried on by the DAIRY FARM COMPANY, LIMITED. Consequently upon each acquisition the name of the DAIRY FARM COMPANY, LIMITED, has been duly changed to "THE DAIRY FARM ICE AND COLD STORAGE CO., LTD.," and its business will in future be carried on under the new name.

M. MANUK,  
Secretary.

## THE DAIRY FARM ICE AND COLD STORAGE CO., LTD.

## NOW READY.

## THE DIRECTORY AND CHRONICLE

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1918

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ISSUE.

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## HOUSES TO LET

## TO LET.

NO. 7, STEWART TERRACE, No. 93, THE PEAK.  
Apply to—  
LINSTEAD & DAVIS,  
3rd Floor Alexandra Buildings. [2088]

## TO LET.

COMMODIOUS and well-fitted SHOP in Alexandra Buildings.  
Apply to—  
SECRETARY,  
A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED. [1957]

## TO LET.

HOUSES on Shamoon, Canton.  
No. 57, THE PEAK, LUSTLEIGH.  
Apply to—  
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., Ltd. [2108]

## TO LET.

A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Kowloon.

Apply to—  
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,  
Alexandra Buildings. [2000]

## FOR SALE.

"GALESEND," 109, THE PEAK, SIX ROOMS.  
Apply to—  
C. H. GALE, F.W.D. [1953]

## WANTED.

WANTED, from July 1st, by English Couple, UNFURNISHED FLAT or HALF HOUSE in Kowloon.

Apply to—  
"FLAT," Office,  
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [2092]

## WANTED.

FURNISHED HOUSE at the PEAK, for 4 or 5 months.  
Reply—  
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [2093]

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[1645]

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Parcels will be received at the Office until 3 P.M. the day before sailing. The contents and value of all packages are required.

For further particulars, sailing dates, etc. apply to

P. L. KNIGHT,  
Sole Superintendant.

## NOW ON SALE.

HONGKONG HANSARD REPORTS OF THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for the Session, 1917.

## REVISED BY THE MEMBERS

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DAILY PRESS OFFICE.

## INTIMATION

## WATSON'S OLD BROWN BRANDY



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## A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LTD.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,  
TEL. 618.

## BIRTH.

LINDSAY-WOODS.—At 184, Nathan Road, Kowloon, on June 1st, to Mr. and Mrs. T. P. LINDSAY-WOODS, a daughter. [2105]

HONGKONG OFFICE: 104, DES VOEUX ROAD, C.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 6TH JUNE, 1918.

## CHINA'S NEW PARLIAMENT.

A REPUBLIC without a Parliament is an anomaly which the Chinese Government wishes to end. In view, therefore, of the approaching Presidential election and in the hope that it may be possible to compose the differences which rend the country in twain, a new Parliament is being called together. Laudable as this action would appear, it is not without its critics. Certain politicians point out that as some of the South-Western provinces will ignore the elections, and the elections in Hunan and Hupeh will not all be held in time, owing to the disturbed local conditions, no Parliament can be called owing to the lack of a quorum. Another set of politicians claim that the Election Law requires three-fourths of the total number of Members of Parliament to hold the Presidential election. In paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the Presidential Election Law, however, it is stated that two-thirds of the total number of Members of Parliament can form a quorum, and that the successful candidate must obtain three-fourths of the number of votes cast before he can be elected President. The Election Laws provide for 188 Senators and 409 members of the House of Representatives. The members of Parliament from Chihli, Fengtien, Kirin, Heilungkiang, Kiangsu, Kiangsi, Honan, Hupeh, Hunan, Shantung, Anhui, Shensi, Shensi, Kansu, Kueikien, Chekiang, Sinkiang, Jehol, Suiyuan, Chinghai, Mongolia, Tibet, and the Central Electoral College will reach a total of 470, which exceeds the minimum required for a quorum by 87. Even if one of the 23 members of Parliament for the province of Hunan should be elected, there would still be more than 60 members over the two-thirds margin required for the quorum. In these circumstances the election of Parliament obviously ought to be proceeded with.

## AN OPIUM REVIVAL.

ONE of the very few things which China has done well is the suppression of the opium habit with all its baneful influences. Under the spur of enlightened foreign opinion, the Chinese rid themselves of opium much earlier than was anticipated, and in their thoroughness actually defied Conventions to which the British Government was a party. This, in other circumstances, might have had awkward consequences, but those who took the risk knew that the British people would not take advantage of an agreement in order to insist upon the continuance of opium importation into China. For several years now China has been certified as free, that is to say, the cultivation of the poppy has been entirely discontinued. Of course, the habit has not been completely eliminated—that will take time—and the fact that a demand for the drug still exists is sufficient temptation to greedy officials and unscrupulous speculators to connive at renewed attempts to cultivate the poppy and resume its sale and use. The state of lawlessness which prevails in China invites disregard of authority, especially when it affords lucrative possibilities, and the continued enforcement of the Administration in Peking contributes to conditions favouring the resumption of the traffic in opium. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that reports have been received by the British Legation in Peking of large tracts being under poppy cultivation in Shensi, a province in which lawlessness is rampant and the unfortunate residents are harassed, plundered and murdered by large roving bands of *tufei*. These reports came from reputable sources—from missionaries and from foreign travellers—and naturally they could not be ignored. Accordingly, the British Minister has lodged a protest with the Chinese Government. Under the Opium Convention, Indian opium may be imported into China so long as the poppy is cultivated in China. That is the legal aspect, but in these days of higher ideals it may be taken for granted that Sir John Jordan and the British Government, which he represents, are more concerned with the moral aspect. The protest is made not in the interests of Indian opium, but in those of the Chinese people. The reply of the Chinese Government is not known, but it is safe to infer that assurance will be given that orders will be issued to the provincial officials to enforce the law prohibiting the cultivation of the poppy. That these orders will be obeyed is not so certain. Gone are the days when edicts from Peking concluded with the warning "tremble and obey." Then they were heeded, but now the authority of the Government does not seem to extend beyond the metropolitan area, and however ready the Administration may be to suppress poppy cultivation, it is unable to control the more distant feudal *Tuchuns*. How, then, can a Government be held responsible when it is not in a position to enforce its authority? This problem meets the Treaty Powers at every turn.

The postponed American Red Cross pageant at Canton will be held on Saturday, on the Shamoon Tennis Courts.

It is announced that on and from Monday, June 10th, several important alterations will be made on the time-table of the Canton-Kowloon railway.

As a meeting of the War Charities Committee has been called for to-morrow, the meeting of motorists has been postponed until Friday, the 14th inst.

The following cases of communicable diseases were notified in the Colony during the week ended June 1st:—Cerebro-spinal fever, 33 (25 deaths); bubonic plague, 17 (12 deaths); diphtheria, 9 (2 deaths); and enteric fever, 7 (2 deaths). The sufferers included two English (one enteric and one cerebro-spinal fever) and one American (enteric fever). The following cases of communicable diseases were notified in the Colony on Tuesday:—Cerebro-spinal fever, 3 (2 deaths); bubonic plague, 9 (4 deaths); enteric fever, 1 (1 death). All the sufferers were Chinese.

## THE FLIGHT OF A BRITISH SOLDIER IN GERMANY.

"Always cold, always hungry, without a pair of socks for his feet, unable to wash a shirt, one small piece of bread and soup all the food given to him daily; employed for parcels, yet knows they will not be given to him." This is the description given, in a letter from the hon. secretary of a regimental fund, of the plight of a British soldier who has been in a German prison, practically in solitary confinement, for eight months.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## HOUSING ACCOMMODATION IN HONGKONG.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—In wandering about the New Territory you will see a new road being cut from Kowloon to Castle Peak, presumably for motor joy-rides. If the Government were to spend the money which that is costing on modern dwellings and let them at a cheap rental to the Chinese it would surely help to lessen sickness amongst people who now have to herd together in numbers and use the kitchen floor on account of such high rents being demanded for mere boxes. Has the Government no power to regulate rents as the Imperial Government is now doing? With apologies to vested interests, I am one who is paying fifty dollars per month for two cubicles and the use of the kitchen drain—without water.—Yours faithfully,

TWO CUBICLES.

Hongkong, June 5th.

## THE CONSCRIPTION BILL.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Part of the information asked for by "Plebis" in your issue of to-day is supplied by the following extract from the statement made by H.E. the Governor with regard to the Military Service Commission at a meeting of the Legislative Council on February 22nd last year:—

"It must be assumed that all those who have voluntarily submitted themselves to the judgment of the Commissioners desire, if permitted, to leave the Colony for active service in the war, but it is obvious that in some cases serious questions may arise as to how provision is to be made for those dependent on them during their absence. In the case of officers holding permanent posts in the Government service no such question arises. Under instructions from the Secretary of State, their posts are kept open for them until their return from Military or Naval service, and such service will count in full for Colonial pension and for increments (if any) of Colonial salary, while they receive such a monthly allowance from Colonial funds as with their Military or Naval pay makes up their Colonial full salary."—Yours faithfully,

OBSERVER.

Hongkong, June 5th.

## HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council will be held to-day at 2.30 p.m.

QUESTIONS.

The Hon. Mr. P. H. HOLLOAK will ask:—

With reference to the statement made by the Director of Public Works on the 30th May regarding the Taitam Tuk pumping engines, will the contractors be held responsible for the defects in these engines?

## ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Second reading of the Bill intituled, "An Ordinance to provide for the raising of a force the members of which shall be liable to service with His Majesty's Forces outside the Colony during the present war."

## MACAO NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

MACAO, June 3rd.

The following have been elected members of the Senado from 1st July, 1918, to 31st December, 1919:—Mr. Armando Pereira (Banco Nacional Ultramarino), General Fernando Rodrigues (retired on pension), Lieut. Col. José Marques (retired), Luiz Nolasco da Silva and Francisco da Silva (both lawyers).

The "Macao Club" has at last succeeded in establishing a "branch" at "Area Preta" and from the 1st inst. a motor car has been running there from the Boa Vista Hotel, taking the members of the Club and their families outside for a trip. In the morning the car starts very early in order to give opportunities for a sea-bath.

## BORING FOR OIL IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Cowdray's offer to spend, if required, \$500,000 in boring for oil in England has been taken up by the Government. Arrangements have been made for trial borings to be sunk by Lord Cowdray's firm in a locality where petroleum geologists expect to find oil. Mr. Bonar Law stated in the House of Commons that a satisfactory agreement has been come to with a firm which is to undertake the work. Lord Cowdray, it will be remembered, controlled big oil interests in Mexico.



# THE WAR.

## GERMAN TROOPS DEFINITELY CHECKED.

### BRIGHTER REPORTS FROM THE FRONT.

## GOVERNMENT'S OFFER TO IRELAND.

### ASKED TO RAISE FIFTY THOUSAND RECRUITS.

#### Branco-Belgian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.  
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### BRITISH FRONT.

#### A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION.

London, June 3rd.  
10.20 p.m.  
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The French repulsed raids northward of Bailloul.

The total prisoners taken in the successful operation on June 2nd south-eastward of Struazelle was 289. We also captured an anti-tank gun, 30 machine-guns and several trench-mortars.

#### AERIAL OPERATIONS.

London, June 3rd.  
4.45 p.m.  
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Our aeroplanes dropped 18 tons of bombs and heavily machine-gunned a great variety of targets.

We destroyed eight machines in air-fighting and drove down 14 uncontrollable.

Three British machines are missing. We dropped 8 tons of bombs last night on Le Cateau, St. Quentin and Valenciennes railway stations.

All our night-fliers returned. CONSIDERABLE ARTILLERY FIRING.

London, June 4th.  
12.50 p.m.  
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We captured a few prisoners in a successful raid at night on June 3rd westward of Merville.

We repulsed an attack on a new post westward of Vieux Berquin, taking prisoners.

There was considerable hostile artillery firing this morning between Albert and the Serre.

#### LATEST CABLES.

ENEMY'S THRUST DEFINITELY CHECKED.

London, June 4th.  
7.50 a.m.

Yesterday's news was the most satisfactory since May 27th. The reports have been growing brighter during the past two days, but yesterday was the first indication that the enemy is being definitely checked. The entry of Generalissimo Foch's reserves is undoubtedly taking effect. The recapture of Mont de Choisy is most important, for it is one of the main bastions defending the road to Paris by way of Compiègne, while the repulse of enemy attempts to enter the forest of Betz in front of Villers-Cotterets is no less significant, for it is now evident that the enemy's plan is to capture the forest-clad heights of Villers-Cotterets and Compiègne, then to enclose Paris inside an enormous salient by way of the valleys of the Oise, the Ourcq and the Marne.

It is in pursuit of this object that the enemy is now trying desperately to free the left wing on the Marne. His front here is very narrow, barely fifteen miles, namely, between Chateau Thierry and Laferte-Milon, and as it is impossible to manoeuvre an immense army for assault on such a front without exposing it to an enormous risk, the Crown Prince is striving to widen his front, but ineffectually, as it appears. If the Germans are now brought to a standstill, as the Allied opinion is confident they will be, there is likely to be a prolonged contest east of Paris in further pursuit of the aim to destroy the French armies and bring batteries to bear on the city.

The threat on Paris has intensified the patriotism of the citizens, and the Socialists, hitherto at loggerheads with the Government, have announced their intention of doing everything to support the Government.

#### GERMAN REPORTS.

London, June 3rd.  
4.05 p.m.  
A wireless German official report, issued this evening, states:—Fresh progress was made south-westward of Soissons.

We drove back the enemy towards Moulin-sous-Touvey, St. Christophe and Vingre, and we captured Chaudin.

We pushed across the Savieres territory as far as the eastern border of Villers-Cotterets woods, and repulsed violent counter-attacks southward of the Ourcq. We captured Belin, also the heights westward of Chateau Thierry.

#### FRENCH FRONT.

ENEMY ATTACK WITH REDOUBLED VIOLENCE.

PARIS, June 4th.  
A communiqué states:—The battle was resumed with great intensity during last night and to-day.

The Germans, with fresh forces, attacked between the Oise and the Ourcq, with redoubled violence.

North of the Aisne their attacks were directed against Mont-de-Choisy, which, for the fifth time, we recaptured.

All other enemy attempts between the Oise and the Aisne, especially north of Moulin-sous-Touvent and Vingre, were in vain.

Between the Aisne and the Ourcq the Germans attempted desperate efforts to penetrate the forest of Villers-Cotterets from the north and east.

#### FRENCH INFLECT BLOODY LOSSES.

Our troops heroically withstood the shock of the enemy's forces on this front and broke their advance, inflicting bloody losses.

West of Soissons the enemy was checked east of Pernant, also further south on the general line Saconin-Missy-Aux-Bois-Vaquentille and the eastern edge of Betz forest and Troesnes.

We recaptured Faverolles by a vigorous counter-attack.

There is no change between the Ourcq and the Marne.

In the region south of Ville-en-Tardenois the French and British troops maintained all their gains north of Champlait.

During June 1st and 2nd 29 German aeroplanes were shot down, 24 were driven down out of control, and 130 tons of explosives were dropped on enemy depots, convoys and troops. Anti-aircraft guns destroyed another four enemy aeroplanes. BATTLE CONTINUES DESPERATE.

#### LATER.

communiqué states:—Between the Oise and the Aisne the enemy were held up by our energetic resistance and made no progress.

Between the Aisne and the Ourcq the battle continued from evening all night with equal desperation. From seven o'clock in the evening violent attacks occurred in the region of Pernant-Saconin-Missy-Aux-Bois-Troesnes.

Pernant fell into the enemy's hands, after an obstinate defence, in which the enemy lost heavily.

Further south we yielded a little ground west of Saconin and Missy-Aux-Bois.

#### Italian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.  
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### AERIAL WARFARE.

London, June 4th.  
A British Italian official report states:—Since May 25th our aeroplanes have destroyed 14 enemy machines and drove down another uncontrollable. One British machine has not returned.

#### Aerial Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.  
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### NAVAL AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY

London, June 3rd.  
The Admiralty announce:—Between Thursday and Sunday Naval aircraft carried out night and day raids on Bruges Dock, Zeebrugge and Ostend.

Several tons of heavy bombs were dropped on objectives, with good results. Photographs confirm that great damage was inflicted on the engineering works at Bruges.

We brought down three enemy machines in flames and drove down three uncontrollable. Three of ours are missing.

Meanwhile our aircraft sighted and attacked a submarine and located several enemy mines during patrols in the North Sea. They also sighted a Zeppelin, but a seaplane was unable to overtake and engage it effectively.

One seaplane is missing.

#### General.

EARLIER CABLES.  
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

#### IRELAND'S PART IN THE WAR

PROCLAMATION BY VISCOUNT FRENCH.

London, June 4th.

Viscount French has issued a proclamation as follows:—"In pursuance of our promises, we now make an offer, which, if successful, will ensure that Ireland will play her part fully and freely in the World's struggle for liberty. The offer we make is that Ireland should voluntarily furnish the number of men required to establish an equitable ratio when compared with all other parts of the Empire. In order to establish that ratio Ireland can fairly be asked to raise 50,000 recruits before October 1st to replenish the Irish Divisions in the field, and after that date to raise 23,000 monthly, in order to maintain those divisions. That is what we ask Ireland to do."

"We wish to make it quite clear to everyone that there is no intention to disturb the farming interests, food production nor to do anything which would hamper or curtail the essential industry of the country. It is not expected that many of the rural population will be available for military purposes, and the Government look almost entirely to the large number of young men in towns, who are in far greater number than is required to carry on the ordinary retail trade, to furnish the necessary contingent. As is done in England, Scotland and Wales, we propose, first, to call the younger men and those who can best be spared to come forward to fight for their Motherland."

"The age limit of the present appeal, therefore, is fixed between 18 and 27. This is not intended to preclude older men from coming forward who may be specially fitted for military service, or who are animated with the desire to serve their country in the field. We recognise that the men who come forward to fight for the Motherland are entitled to share all the Motherland can offer, and steps are, therefore, being taken to ensure as far as possible that the land will be available for those men who have fought for their country, and the necessary legislative measures are now under consideration. Recruiting will be in civilian hands, and steps will be taken to secure that fair play shall be meted out to all."

#### A BRITISH DENIAL

London, June 4th.  
3.45 p.m.  
The Press Bureau announce that, contrary to the statement attributed by the German wireless to a captured English medical student, the Admiralty state that no munitions were ever carried on the Western Australia or any other British hospital ship.

#### A MEMORABLE PILGRIMAGE

London, June 3rd.  
Although the numbers of pilgrims and spectators have naturally diminished owing to the war, this year's Neby Musa Pilgrimage will remain forever memorable. It augured well for the future of Palestine when, through some happy inspiration, representatives of all the religious bodies in Jerusalem were united to meet the Governor and the principal Mohammedan families on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. Not a great way off were the "Tombs of the Prophets," the resting places of those followers of Moses whom Christians, Mohammedans and Jews delight to honour. The prayers invoking blessings on the pilgrims included one for all the communities in Palestine and one for the prosperity of the present rulers of the country.

#### A BETROTHAL SERVICE.

BISHOP ON MARRIAGE.

The National Council of Public Morals held a conference at the Caxton Hall recently on the Ethics and Future of Marriage. The Bishop of Birmingham denounced the changes in the marriage law which were being advocated as contrary to the true ideal of marriage. He complained of the Churches that they did not take the care they should in regard to advising, sometimes perhaps, restraining, young people from taking upon them lightly the solemn responsibilities of matrimony involved. He was old-fashioned enough to wish that there could still be some solemn service of betrothal before marriage took place. As to divorce, the two sexes must be treated with absolute equality, and its great cost to the poor swept away. More than once during his hospital visiting soldiers had told him it seemed so impossible to get rid of an unfaithful wife by legal means that they were tempted to find the gallows. Unless they could get some union between Church and State he thought the eventual solution—a logical one—would have to be a civil marriage for all parties, with a religious ceremony for those only to whom that ceremony had a meaning.

Principal Forsyth found in literature a conspiracy to justify and almost to consecrate laxity. There were novelists who had more gifts as novelists than insight as moralists. "Dr. Horton declared that multitudes of children to-day were brought up in families where men and wife treated each other with indifference, a disaster to society. Bishop Weldon agreed, in regard to divorce, that there should be all-round equality. Admissible grounds of divorce in his opinion were pre-nuptial unchastity and adultery, incurable insanity, and (on the whole) prolonged intolerable cruelty. If he admitted another it would be marriage to a German or Austrian husband."

"Sir Arthur Conan Doyle said the English divorce laws were the strictest of any Protestant country. Those who thought with him were trying to bring our divorce procedure, to-day the most backward, into line with the average Protestant country. The Church apparently was going to oppose them. Women held in bondage and torture turned to them from the Church, for all the Church had to say to them was 'Bear it.' If we have got 200,000 graves in France where we want 200,000 cradles in England (he added), I am out to get a large number of people married who cannot at present marry on account of our preposterous law. (Hear, hear.)"

Lady Rucker argued that lifelong marriage was the ideal to be worked for, and that the loosening of the marriage tie, opening the way to self-indulgence, would never make a better England. When they looked at the Prussian soldier they saw some of the result of the concubinage permitted by Germany after the Thirty Years' War.

#### ODDS AND ENDS.

BATTLE STORIES FROM THE WEST FRONT.

[BY "Z."]

"From the papers you'd think that there wasn't much doing on the front," said a wounded infantryman, "but you can take it from me that we chaps in the trenches are always pretty busy. You can't afford to slacken down a single minute, for the fellows that get careless are sure to cop it."

"We had a corporal in our battalion that was always lecturing us on taking chances. He had been out three years, off and on, and had two Blighties in attacks, so he knew what he was talking about. He was a good non-com.—one of the best. But one day he did what he was always warning us against. He stuck his head and shoulders over the parapet. He copped one in the shoulder from a sniper. I don't know what made him do a silly thing like that. I heard from one of the chaps that there was a queer noise like a tin can rattling in front and he was curious about it. 'Result: one in the shoulder that he'll feel all his life. When we got him to the dressing station, he reminded me of the fellow that was to be hanged.' He said, 'This will be a lesson to me!' He ran up against an officer of the R.F.C. on the way home—he was a walking case for it. We got talking about carelessness in general. He told me that you can get careless in the air just as in the trenches, and he said that his wound was the result of it. He told me that he had been flying along at a great height on a fast scout, dreaming about home he was. And a Gerry got on his tail before he woke up. He finished the fight with a bullet in the side, but he made the Gerry fly over the end. He said if it hadn't been for carelessness, he'd have come off scot-free."

"The way these flying chaps keep at it is absolutely marvellous. There's nothing in the way of weather, seemingly, that can stop them from going up. Rain, snow, hail and fog, any old thing they'll fly on the ground or in the air, and time. We chaps in the trenches could do anything for them, given the chance. I've seen a few attacks in my time, and I've seen the work the flying chaps do. Why, I've seen one of them almost sit on the barrage, spotting for the guns. I like these chaps, but I don't envy them their job. Solid ground's good enough for me."

"I got this packet," he said in answer to a question, "during a German attack—well, it was more of a raid than an attack. We've nothing to learn now from the Gories in the way of attacking or raiding. Time was when we weren't above picking up a wrinkle or two from them, but that's past. We're the master now. I think the Boche must be at his wits' end for new dodges. "He had the nerve to attack the other day with flame-throwers. I don't think much of the German flame-machine. It isn't enough range to count, though it can be annoying enough. They strafed us all day with minnies, off and on, and we knew well what was coming. Old Gerry doesn't waste ammunition nowadays unless he's got it to something. He was ready and waiting when he came, and he ran right up against it. He started off with his flame-throwers before he came over the top, but the jets weren't anything near us until he got out into the open. Then of course the men with the jets were an easy mark and we nailed a few. The raid failed before it came to our line, and the only result was that we took five prisoners and left a few German dead in No-Man's-Land."

"One of the Gories we took was carrying a tank on his back, and he was wounded. I'd got in the way of a German grenade myself, so there we were, this Gerry and I, cushy and comfortable in the dressing station. He talked English, and I told him what a fooling thing his flame-thrower was. He believed me, and cursed his luck that he had to carry the thing—just as I said, the flame-thrower is an easy mark for the chap that's quick on the trigger. I've seen a few German prisoners, and they've all been more or less pleased to be taken, but this fellow beat the lot. He was fed up with the war, but thought it was soon going to finish through the Russian negotiations. So he was glad to be taken. He thought that he'd be safer in England for the little time the war lasted—didn't want to cop out in the last round. I told him that he'd probably be kept in France until he was better of his wound, and then he set to work away back near the bases. He was glad to know we kept no prisoners anywhere near the fire zone, and I gather his own people were not so particular."

"THINGS IN GERMANY. "This Gerry was very frank about how things were in Germany. 'It seems that the letters he got from home were full of grouse and grumble about the food and a lot of illness. His folk lived in Saxony, and it seems that there they make a lot of lace and things of that sort, but grow little food. All those things are stopped since the war, and wherever it has been possible, the machines are turned into munition machines. The womenfolk are starved to death almost, and have to do the roughest work to make the barest living. From what he said, I judge the Prussians grow all the food and won't let the other States have it except at a huge price—profiteering, they are. So the Saxons hate the Prussians worse than ever. "You see, it's this way, according to the flame-thrower chap. The Saxons are the hardest working among the Germans, and their manufactures have helped a lot to make Germany rich. It was the Saxons that started the trade unions in Germany, but all they've ever won in that way has gone by the board since the war. They're worse off than when they started to fight for their rights, and they're pretty sick about it. The Saxons turn out more work for their population than any State in Germany, so he said."

(Continued at foot of next column.)

#### A FINE TALE OF THE SEA.

Tributes have been paid from time to time to the work which is being done by our merchant seamen, but it is only very occasionally that the veil is lifted and we are presented with an incident on which the imagination can feed. From the usually arid surroundings of the High Court—the Admiralty Court, to particularise—a story reaches us which it will do men and women, as well as children, good to read. It loses nothing because the narrator happens to be a judge, a trained lawyer, to whom exaggeration is abhorrent, but gains rather from the cool and deliberate manner in which the sequence of events is presented. The narrative of the attack upon the three-masted steel sailing ship, the morose treatment of the crew, and her subsequent salvage, constitutes a romance, and Mr. Justice Hill has placed the community under an obligation by setting it forth with characteristic lucidity and a breadth of sympathy which were to be expected from the son of Mr. Birkbeck Hill. The vessel was on her way to Great Britain with a cargo of grain valued at £263,716, when she was intercepted by a German submarine. The crew, under the command of the captain, were given five minutes in which to leave the ship—the period being the measure of the humanity shown by seamen of enemy nationality towards comrades of the great brotherhood of the sea. While the *Andale* was being brought to an operation involving some time in the case of a sailor—a second shot was fired, and without further ceremony the men were forced to take to a boat. The submarine continued to bombard the merchantman, but very soon the crew, who had been—save the mark—"put in a place of safety," lost sight of her. They assumed that she had shared the fate of so many other fine ships of the British Merchant Fleet. Six days later, however, the *Andale* was sighted by the steamship *Hecla*.

A merchant ship on the highway of commerce, without apparently a living soul on board, is a thing of suspicion in these days. The enemy adopts many ruses in order to decoy unsuspecting sailors to their ruin. The master of the *Andale* eyed this drifting vessel with suspicion; a conference was held to decide whether the risk should be run of approaching her. At last it was decided to board her, and volunteers were called for. Chief Officer Macdonald—surely a Scot!—with a crew of eight men, approached the *Andale*. No sign of treachery was noticed, so they went on board, to find her deserted, except for a cat, a parrot, and a monkey. For six days she had been carried hither and thither with this strange complement. The steaming vessel had gone, having evidently been shot away, and the standard compass was broken. An embarrassing situation. But these plucky men were undismayed, though the *Andale* required a crew of twenty-five to manage her. An attempt to tow her failed, so Mr. Macdonald, who alone knew anything of navigation or sails, decided that he would have her in tow, whatever the labour and risk for himself and his companions. The *Andale* parted company, and the remarkable voyage of the derelict sailing ship began. It must have appeared a desperate undertaking; it proved worse in experience. By the eleventh day all that remained of the ship's provisions were some biscuits—a meagre fare for nine men doing the work of two or three times their number. With the chronometer run down and the compass untrustworthy, the sailors were modest, silent people, and we may never know what were the thoughts of First Officer Macdonald and his men as the damaged sailing ship laboriously cut her furrow through the water. At last, a Glasgow ship, the *Flying Buzzer*, hove in sight and offered a tow. It was accepted, as it would not in such circumstances have welcomed such aid. But a heavy sea was running and the operation had to be abandoned, the *Flying Buzzer* seeking shelter. That incident in itself conveys a vivid impression of the conditions with which Mr. Macdonald was confronted. As the *Andale* continued to drift, her sails hanging from her masts in ribbons, on the following morning, with the assistance of patrol boats which had seen her distress, some sails were set, and then the *Flying Buzzer* again appeared on the scene and the voyage was completed. That is a story which will do the Germans, as well as ourselves, good. These were ordinary British seamen who happened to be at hand when the trial of character and skill came, and they responded to the call of the moment. Are they of the stuff the ignorant and desperate enemy pictured a year ago, when the mere threat of piracy was to convert the high seas into a dreary wilderness—the solitude the fruits of fear of mightfulness, and our defeat the reality of our seamen's cowardice? The Germans have learnt a good deal of the psychology of British men who go down in ships since the beginning of last year, and fresh lessons are still being given. Some day we shall know all about it, but for the present silence must be kept. We must remember the end of Captain Frayn, and be satisfied with such chance records as that now published. And for the rest, let us not in our hearts think this is one of scores of incidents which constitute the war record of the Merchant Navy in the ordeal through which it is passing with such fine courage and competency.—*Daily Telegraph*.

and they're worse off than anybody in the way of food. Their strength before the war has turned into a weakness, so to speak."

"I couldn't help laughing at this Gerry when he finished. He was saying that the Saxons and the workpeople all over Germany were so fed up with the way they were treated by the land-owners and the farmers and the manufacturers, that he would be prepared to expect anything. "You watch, Englishman," he said, "after the war there's going to be a bloody war in Germany with the people! That's exactly what he said, and to hear that out-word coming from a Gerry—well, it was pretty quaint."



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## STATE AND SHIPBUILDING. LORD DURHAM ON HUSTLE.

The Earl of Durham, in his presidential address at the annual meeting of the Institute of Naval Architects, at the Society of Arts, referred to the shipbuilding crisis. "I will not," he said, "disguise my opinion that this disquieting and unsatisfactory situation is attributable in a considerable degree to the paralysing influence which seems inseparable from Government control of great national industries. It is true that the Government employed experts—and others—and that we have eighteen members under the Admiralty Controller, but they do not control the Controller. During the last few weeks there have been negotiations, consultations and recommendations about shipbuilding and the low output of ships. Much of the trouble and delay is attributed in the North not to disputes between employers and workmen, not to unwillingness and lack of patriotism among the workers, but to the in-export interference and hustling methods of Government officials. There are various definitions of the word 'hustle,' and one is 'jostle.' Jostling on the Turf, he pointed out, demoralised the jockey, put a smooth and kindly-running and willing horse out of his stride, lost it ground, and caused resentment of the rough treatment. The offender on the Turf was disqualified. My advice to the Government," he added, "in regard to our great national industries is 'Don't jostle.' There has been a regrettable diminution in output of ships. I think there will be a great improvement in the near future."

The preparations the naval architects have made, the quiet spade work, the extra facilities devised, are the real determining causes of a future increased output. If you can be freed from vexatious interference by men who don't know your business half as well as you do, I am confident that the patriotism of masters and workmen will overcome our present difficulties. But if this vital industry is to be run by the exercise of time and money by the multiplication of these bureaucratic agencies, in nearly all industries friction and unrest result. Let the Government reform their departments. If there must be control, let it be by shipbuilders themselves if they are best able to advise means of speeding up the work they have spent their lives in perfecting. As regards standard ships, it would be a fatal mistake to deprive the architects of the exercise of their inventive genius and to limit their work by certain standards. It would be well if the Government recognised that fact and allowed the yards to produce ships which they were best able to turn out rapidly. Sir Alan Anderson, of the Shipping Control, said he was advised by competent shipbuilders that the output of the shipyards in this country in 1917 was an absolute record. It had not been a record of merchant ships, but when they took into account the other part of the work, such as warships, auxiliary craft, and the very large increase in essential repairs, it had been a record. That was very satisfactory from one point of view, but he was interested in getting the ships we need. At present they fell short of what was wanted.

Sir Eustace d'Yncourt, Chief Constructor to the Admiralty, observed that the first result of standardisation was delay and we were suffering from that to a great extent now. The work had not got into its stride yet, and it would not be realised for some time how much was owed to the Shipping Controller and to the Advisory Committee for their work. It was only really beginning to bear fruit now, and it would continue progressively to improve. (Hear, hear.)

Lord Brassey said that the less interference by the Government in the shipbuilding yards the better for the industry. Mr. W. Isherwood contended that had shipbuilders been allowed to build types with which they were familiar there would have been no disorganisation, but friendly emulation and enthusiastic co-operation.

ADMIRAL LORD BEREFSFORD'S VIEW.  
Lord Berefsford, speaking at the annual conference of the United Kingdom Pilots' Association, said the present position of shipping was most serious to the country. "The Government have done their best, and it is a devilish bad best," he said, "they have interfered with the shipbuilding of the country. State control of shipbuilding is always fatal. We have got into this mess by Government control by their taking over business which they don't understand. The work should have been left to builders, owners, engineers, and constructors."

Lord Joicey, presiding at the annual meeting of the North of England Steamship Owners' Association at Newcastle, said he attributed largely, though not entirely, the falling off in shipbuilding to Government control. He thought the sooner it was dispensed with the better.

## ATMOSPHERIC NITROGEN FOR EXPLOSIVES.

Sir L. Worthington Evans has informed Mr. S. Robinson that important developments have been made in Allied and neutral countries in the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen, and that considerable supplies are becoming increasingly available. It is believed he says, that enemy countries are now relying entirely on this source of supply for the production of their explosives.

Arrangements have been completed by the Ministry of Munitions for similar production on a large scale in Great Britain, and it is probable that, in order to save tonnage and owing to the length of the voyage from Chile, it will be found necessary to develop this policy still further. This source of supply is also expected to be of great value after the war for the production of fertilizers.

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## WEATHER REPORT.

May 5th, at 12.15.—No return from Japan. Pressure has decreased slightly at all reporting stations; it is probably highest in the Pacific to the S.E. of Japan. The depression over Tongking has become deeper.

Hongkong rainfall for 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.80 inch. Total since 1st January, 14.77 inches, against an average of 25.88 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

DISTRICT	FORECAST.
Hongkong to Gap Rock	(S. or variable winds, moderate); (cloudy, rain)
Formosa Channel	(Light N.E. or variable winds)

South Coast of China between the same as Hongkong and Lamockai No. 1  
South Coast of China between the same as Hongkong and Hainan No. 1

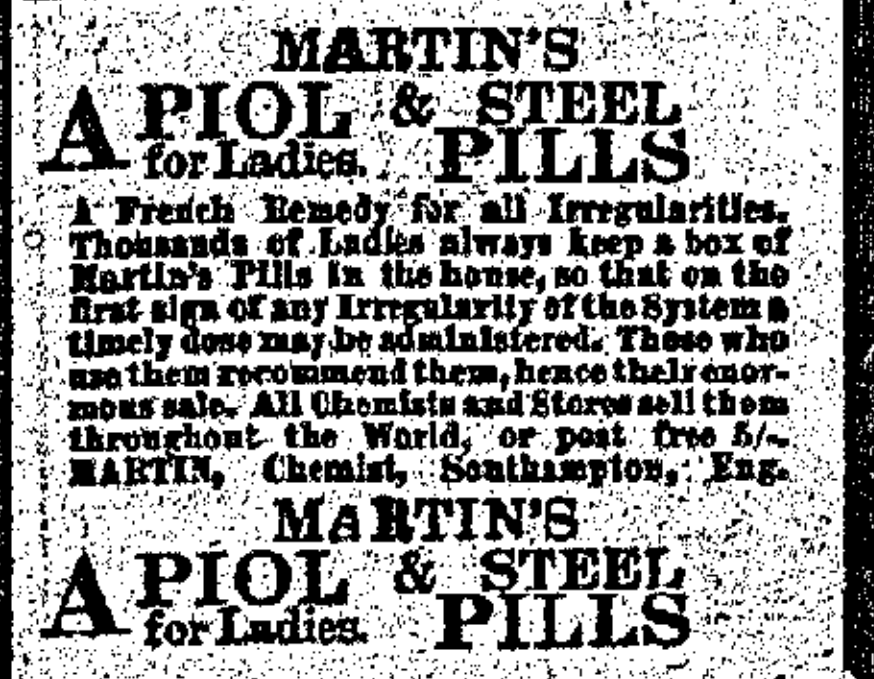
## STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The Hongkong office of the China Mail Steamship Co., Ltd., is in receipt of a telegram from Yokohama advising that the S.S. China arrived at that port on the 4th inst., and may be expected to arrive in Hongkong on June 14th.



It's wonderful how quickly a hot bath with Cuticura Soap followed by a gentle anointing with Cuticura Ointment relieves itching, burning, eczema, rashes and chafing, permits sleep for infant and rest for mother, and points to speedy healing in most cases when it seems nothing would do any good. This is only one of the many things Cuticura does for the skin when used for every-day toilet purposes.

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U.S. MAIL LINE.

OPERATING THE NEW FIRST-CLASS STEAMERS  
"ECUADOR," "VENEZUELA" AND "COLOMBIA,"  
14,000 tons each.

HONGKONG TO SAN FRANCISCO,

VIA SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA AND HONOLULU.

THE SUNSHINE BELT.

THE MOST COMFORTABLE ROUTE TO AMERICA AND EUROPE.

SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG at Noon.  
S.S. "COLOMBIA" ... June 10th.  
S.S. "VENEZUELA" ... July 1st.  
S.S. "ECUADOR" ... Aug. 14th.

These Steamers have the most modern equipment, including Overhead Electric Fans and Electric Lighting. ALL LOWER BERTHS and large comfortable staterooms (all single and two berths only).

The Safety and Comfort of Passengers is our first consideration. Special care is given to the Cuisine, and the attendance on passengers cannot be surpassed.

Tickets are interchangeable with the TOYO KISEN KAISHA and the CANADIAN PACIFIC OCEAN STEAMERS, LTD.

For further information rates, literature, schedules, etc., apply to Telephone 141. COMPANY'S OFFICE in Alexander Buildings, Chater Road.

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and from ALL WINE MERCHANTS.



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It increases vital energy and nerve force, cures Neurasthenia, Dyspepsia, Insomnia, and nervous diseases in adults and children.  
IN CAPSULES, IN WINE, AND IN SYRUP

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Cargo carried on through Bills of Lading from HONGKONG to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN with transshipment at COLOMBO to Steamers of the INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

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UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

Steamers proceed via Suez Canal or Cape of Good Hope at Owners' option. Subject to change without notice.

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or to BARR & CO., Canton.

General Agents.

**C. N. C. CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.**

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
SHANGHAI	SUIYANG	On 6th June, 3 P.M.
SHANGHAI	KAIFONG	On 8th June, 3 P.M.
SHANGHAI	SUNGKIANG	On 11th June, Noon.

SHANGHAI LINE—PASSENGERS, MAILS and CARGO. Excellent Saloon accommodation, Ample Electric Light and Fans in Saloon and State-rooms. Regular schedule service between Canton, Hongkong and Shanghai, taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports. Passengers are landed in Shanghai, avoiding the inconvenience of transshipment at Woosung.

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HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA COAST PORT SERVICE.

REGULAR SERVICE of Fast, High Class Coast Steamers having good accommodation for First Class Passengers, Electric Light and Fans in state-rooms and Saloons and Excellent cuisine.

FOR  
**SWATOW. AMOY AND FOOCHOW**  
AND RETURN.

(Occupying 10 to 15 Days).

"HAIKONG"	Capt. J. W. Evans	FRIDAY,	7th June, at Noon.
"HAITAN"	Capt. A. E. Hodgins	TUESDAY,	11th June, at Noon.

\* Calling at Amoy Passengers only.

Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near Elsie Pier).

For Freight and Passage, apply to—

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CALCUTTA STRAITS, SHANGHAI AND JAPAN PORTS.

EASTWARD

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TAKING PASSENGERS AND CARGO TO

STRAITS, COLOMBO, INDIA, AUSTRALASIA, EGYPT, &c.

Steamers	Leave Hongkong	Connecting Mail	Due at Marseilles	Due at London
Colombo	Leave Hongkong Noon	Str. from Colombo	1917	1917

When Passengers change Steamers at COLOMBO.

Accommodation in the connecting Steamer from COLOMBO is definitely reserved in Hongkong at the time of Booking.

On the Australian Route Tickets Interchangeable with Orient Line.

SAILINGS DIRECT TO

**SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.**

S.S.

Leave Hongkong About

Passengers may travel by Railway in Japan between Ports of Call free of charge. Return Tickets are available to Messageries Maritimes Company.

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(Non-Transshipment).

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CARRYING 1ST AND 2ND SALOON PASSENGERS AT REDUCED RATES

PROPOSED SAILINGS:

STEAMERS	Leave Hongkong about	Leave Port Said about	Due at Marseilles if sailing about	Due at London about
The Intermediate Service is	Temporarily	Suspended.		

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY FITTED ON ALL STEAMERS. All Cabins are fitted with Electric Fans free of charge, and each Berth furnished with an Electric Reading Lamp. Round-the-World Tickets and Through Tickets to New York in connection with the Principal Mail Lines. Return Tickets at fare and a half available to Europe for Two Years or to Intermediate Ports for Six Months. Owing to the War in Europe Steamers and Sailing dates are liable to be cancelled or altered without notice.

**NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.**

Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice. Any damaged packages must be left in the Godown for examination by the Consignees, and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GOSNARD & DYER, at 10 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognized. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godown. For Further Information, Passage Fare, Freight, Handbooks, Dates of Sailing, etc., apply to

**P. L. KNIGHT,**  
Acting Superintendent.

**NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.**

(JAPAN MAIL S.S. CO.)

SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

DESTINATION	STEAMER & DISPLACEMENT	SAILING DATES
SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	KANAGAWA MARU 12,500 tons SAT.	22nd June 11 A.M.
	MISHIMA MARU 16,000 tons SAT.	22nd June 11 A.M.
NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	NIKKO MARU 9,800 tons SAT.	15th June 11 A.M.
	AKI MARU 12,500 tons SAT.	20th July 11 A.M.

SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE

LONDON or LIVERPOOL via SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, DELAGOA BAY & CAPE TOWN

MELBOURNE via MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, THURSDAY, IS, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE & SYDNEY

NEW YORK via SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SAN FRANCISCO & PANAMA CANAL

BOMBAY via SINGAPORE, MALACCA & COLOMBO

CALCUTTA via SINGAPORE, PENANG & RANGOON

§ Omitting Shanghai and/or Moji.

† Wireless telegraphy.

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Next SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

† FUSHIMI MARU --- Tues. 11th June, at 11 A.M.

† KASHIMA MARU --- Thurs. 20th June, at 11 A.M.

† Omitting Manila Eastbound.

For further information apply to

**NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.**

B. MORI Manager.

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**TOYO KISEN KAISHA****SAN FRANCISCO LINE.**

VIA SHANGHAI, INLAND SEA, JAPAN AND HONOLULU

FAST AND LUXURIOUS MAIL STEAMERS

Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to Change Without Notice

Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
SIBERIA MARU	18,000	MON., 10th June, at Noon.
TENYO MARU	22,000	SAT., 22nd June.
SHINYO MARU	22,000	TUES., 16th July
KOREA MARU	18,000	TUES., 13th Aug

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THENCE BY TRANS-ANDREAN ROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES.

Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
KIYO MARU	17,300	July 12th.
ANYO MARU	18,500	Sept. 6th.
NIFFON MARU	11,000	Nov. 6th.

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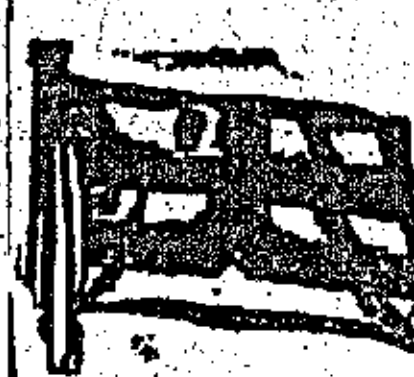
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"AFRICA MARU"	TUESDAY,	11th June, at 3 P.M.
"CANADA MARU"	MONDAY,	17th June, at 3 P.M.

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KEELUNG via SWATOW and AMOY.

"KALJO MARU" --- SUNDAY, 9th June, at Noon.

TAKAO via SWATOW and AMOY.

"GOSHU MARU" --- THURSDAY, 6th June, at 8 A.M.

FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS

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**CHINA MAIL S.S. CO., LTD.**

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